

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4-9 and 11-23 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 8, 14-16, 19, 20 and 23 are amended, and claim 10 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 14-16 submitted herewith are responsive to the Examiner's comments, and that claims 14-18 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Broker et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0051296 (hereinafter "Broker"). Claim 10 is cancelled. The rejection, in so far as it applies to remaining claims 1, 4-9 and 11-23, is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a washing machine. The washing machine includes a protecting member which extends outward from an outer surface of the tub. Independent claim 1 recites that the protecting member is configured to divert water away from at least one corresponding electrical component which is operably coupled to the tub. Independent claim 23 recites similar features in varying scope. Broker neither discloses nor suggests at least such features, let alone the claimed combination of features.

Broker discloses a washing machine 2, including an inner tub 12 rotatably installed in an outer tub 25. Rotation of the inner tub 12 is driven through the action of a spinner pulley 118 which is driven by a motor (not shown). A belt (not shown) connected to the motor extends around an outer peripheral surface 120 of the spinner pulley 118 to drive a driveshaft 85 and spin the inner tub 12.

It appears the Examiner has drawn a comparison between the spinner pulley 118 and outer peripheral surface 120 thereof disclosed by Broker and the protecting member recited in independent claims 1 and 23. However, Broker clearly discloses that a hub portion 117 of the spinner pulley 118 is fixedly secured to a terminal end of the driveshaft 85 (see paragraph 18 of Broker). Thus, the spinner pulley 118 and outer peripheral surface 120 thereof are clearly coupled to the driveshaft 85, and do not extend from any of the outer surfaces of either the inner tub 12 or the outer tub 25. Thus, Broker neither discloses nor suggests a protecting

Reply to Office Action dated October 30, 2006

member which extends outward from an outer surface of a tub, as recited in independent claims 1 and 23. Further, Broker is silent as to the positioning of any of the electrical components to the rear of either of the tubs 12, 25. Thus, Broker neither discloses nor suggests that the spinner pulley 118 and/or its outer peripheral surface 120 would be capable of diverting water away from any electrical component which may operably coupled to the tub, as recited in independent claims 1 and 23.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 23 are not anticipated by Broker. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Broker should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 4-22 are allowable at least for the reasons as set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

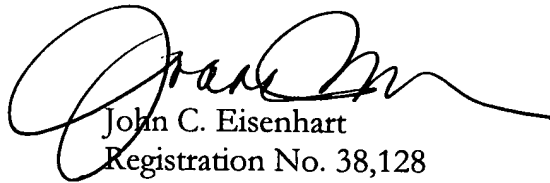
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below.

Reply to Office Action dated October 30, 2006

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KED & ASSOCIATES, LLP



John C. Eisenhart
Registration No. 38,128
Joanna K. Mason
Registration No. 56,408

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3777 JCE/JKM/lhd

Date: February 28, 2007

\\Fk4\Documents\2016\2016-667\109518.doc

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610